

Tips and Reminders

Although / Even though / Despite

Here are a few common mistakes that people often make when writing.

Although I love living in Malaysia, **but** I miss my family.

Change to

Although I love living in Malaysia, I miss my family.

Despite studying so hard for the test, **but** I didn't pass it.

Change to

Despite studying so hard for the test, I didn't pass it.

There vs Have

The words 'there' and 'have' basically mean the same thing; we just use them in different sentence. So, when you use 'there', or 'have' decide which one you need.

There have a lot of good food in Malaysia. (**not so good**)

There is a lot of good food in Malaysia. (**better**)

Malaysia **has** a lot of good food. (**better**)

Start a new sentence with a verb + ing

If you start a new sentence with a verb, you will need to attach **ing**.

Find the right job is important for every university graduate. (**not so good**)

Finding the right job is important for every university graduate. (**better**)

Study English can be difficult, so here is some advice. (**not so good**)

Studying English can be difficult, so here is some advice. (**better**)

ED vs ING adjectives

This can be quite confusing so here are some common mistakes to watch out for.

I don't really like English class, because I am always **boring**. (**not so good**)

I don't like English class, because I am always **bored**. (**better**)

I am really into art these days. I find it so **interested**. (**not so good**)

I am really into art these days. I find it **interesting**. (**better**)

If you are talking about your own **feeling**, use **ed**. I am **bored** / **excited** / **interested**.
If you are talking about your **opinion** about something, use **ing**. It is **boring** / **exciting**.

Using 'that' and not using 'that'

Starting a sentence can be tricky grammatically. Check the examples below.

The first reason is that there **are** traffic jams. (with a **verb**)

The first reason is **traffic jams**. (with a **noun**)

The second reason is that **smoking** is expensive. (with a **verb+ing**)

The second reason is the **cost**. (with a **noun**)

The final cause is that students **are** not motivated. (with a **verb**)

The final cause is **lack of motivation**. (with a **noun**)

Which? That?

This will confuse you for many years to come. Just don't give up as you'll get it one day.

Here are some ideas will help you.

Here are some ideas **which / that** will help you.

This is the main cause should be discussed.

This is the main cause **which / that** should be discussed.

Pollution is an issue affects many people.

Pollution is an issue **which / that** affects many people.

When you are making lists with 'such as', use nouns or gerunds.

There are a few ways to increase your English skill such as, speak, read and write.

There are a few ways to increase your English skill such as speaking, reading and writing.

There are a number of reasons why students study abroad, such as new **opportunities**, **friendship** and **experience**.

For vs To

Many students like to use FOR, however, we use it for specific sentences. We usually use FOR + NOUN.

Why did you come to Malaysia?

I came to Malaysia **for study English**.

I came to Malaysia **to study English**.

The police are there **for protection the people**.

The police are there **to protect the people**.

English is a useful skill to have **for communication with people**.

English is a useful skills to have **to communicate with people**.